

IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and listings.

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B2 1. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ A method of dividing a digital signal representing physical quantities, ~~characterised in that it includes~~ comprising the steps of:

[[ - ]] determining (~~E1~~) an initial partitioning of the signal[[ , ]];

[[ - ]] displaying (~~E3, E4~~) a representation of the signal and the previously determined signal partitioning[[ , ]] at the same time;

[[ - ]] acquiring (~~E7~~) at least one partitioning modification parameter[[ , ]] through an intervention by a user; and

[[ - ]] modifying (~~E7~~) the partitioning of the signal.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~Division~~ The method according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ which the partitioning of the signal includes blocks of samples of the signal, and ~~said the~~ at least one modification parameter is chosen from amongst a block height (~~H~~) and a block width (~~L~~).

3. (Currently Amended) ~~Division~~ The method according to Claim 1 or 2, ~~characterised in that said~~ which the at least one modification parameter makes it possible to translate the partitioning with respect to the signal.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~Division~~ The method according to Claim 1 or 2, characterised in that which the modified partitioning of the signal is selected from a predetermined set of partitionings.

B2 5. (Currently Amended) ~~Division~~ The method according to Claim 1 or 2, characterised in that it also includes further comprising the step of simulating ~~[[E42]]~~ the coding ~~an~~ and decoding of the signal, ~~and in that~~ which the displayed representation of the signal is the result of the step of simulating.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~Division~~ The method according to Claim 5, characterised in that which distortions in the representation of the signal are emphasized.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ A method of dividing a digital signal representing physical quantities, characterised in that it includes comprising the steps of:

[[ - ]] determining (S1) at least one area of interest in the signal[[ , ]];

[[ - ]] determining (S20) an initial partitioning of the signal, including partitioning areas[[ , ]]; and

[[ - ]] modifying (S22, S24, S26) the partitioning of the signal according to ~~said~~ the at least one area of interest and a predetermined criterion.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~Division~~ The method according to Claim 7, characterised in that which the partitioning of the signal is modified so that ~~said~~ the at least one area of interest is not shared between two partitioning areas.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~Division~~ The method according to Claim 7 or 8, characterised in that which the partitioning of the signal is modified so that the partitioning areas are the smallest possible in order to satisfy the predetermined criterion.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~Division~~ The method according to Claim 7 or 8, characterised in that which the partitioning of the signal includes blocks of samples of the signal, and ~~in that~~ the modification of the partitioning includes the modification (~~S22, S24, S26~~) of at least one parameter chosen from amongst a block height ( $H$ ) and a block width ( $L$ ).

11. (Currently Amended) ~~Division~~ The method according to Claim 7 or 8, characterised in that which the modification of the partitioning includes a translation of the partitioning with respect to the signal.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~Division~~ The method according to Claim 7 or 8, characterised in that which the modification of the partitioning results in a modified partitioning which is selected from a predetermined set of partitionings.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ A method of coding a digital signal representing physical quantities, characterised in that it includes including the division method according to any one of Claims 1, 2, 7, or 8.


14. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ A device for dividing a digital signal representing physical quantities, ~~characterised in that it has~~ comprising:

[[ - ]] means ~~(31) of~~ for determining an initial partitioning of the signal[[ , ]];

[[ - ]] means ~~(310) of~~ for displaying a representation of the signal and the previously determined signal partitioning[[ , ]] at the same time;

[[ - ]] means ~~(31) of~~ for acquiring at least one partitioning modification parameter[[ , ]] through an intervention by a user; and

[[ - ]] means ~~(31) of~~ for modifying the partitioning of the signal.




15. (Currently Amended) ~~Division~~ The device according to Claim 14, ~~characterised in that~~ which the determination means are adapted to form a partitioning of the signal which includes blocks of samples of the signal, and ~~in that~~ the acquisition means are adapted to consider ~~said~~ the at least one modification parameter from amongst a block height [[(H)]] and a block width [[(L)]].

16. (Currently Amended) ~~Division~~ The device according to Claim 14 or 15, ~~characterised in that~~ which the acquisition means are adapted to consider a modification parameter making it possible to translate the partitioning with respect to the signal.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~Division~~ The device according to Claim 14 or 15, ~~characterised in that~~ which the means of modifying the partitioning are adapted to select a modified partitioning which is in a predetermined set of partitionings.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~Division~~ The device according to Claim 14 or 15, ~~characterised in that it also includes~~ further comprising means ~~[[of]]~~ for simulating the coding ~~an~~ and decoding of the signal ~~and in that~~ which the displayed representation of the signal is the result of the means ~~[[of]]~~ for simulating.

 19. (Currently Amended) ~~Division~~ The device according to Claim 18, ~~characterised in that it is~~ adapted to emphasize distortions in the representation of the signal.

20. (Currently Amended) ~~Division~~ The device ~~[[ (10) ]]~~ according to Claim 14 or 15, ~~characterised in that~~ which the determination, display, acquisition and modification means are incorporated in:

~~[[ - ]]~~ a microprocessor ~~(100)~~;

~~[[ - ]]~~ a read only memory ~~(102)~~ containing a program for processing the data~~[[ , ]]~~; and


~~[[ - ]]~~ a random access memory ~~(103)~~ containing registers adapted to record variables modified during the running of said program.

21. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ A device for dividing a digital signal representing physical quantities, ~~characterised in that it has~~ comprising:

[[ - ]] means ~~(31) of~~ for determining at least one area of interest in the signal[[ , ]];

[[ - ]] means ~~(32) of~~ for determining an initial partitioning of the signal, including partitioning areas[[ , ]]; and

[[ - ]] means ~~(32) of~~ for modifying the partitioning of the signal according to ~~said~~ the at least one area of interest and a predetermined criterion.


 22. (Currently Amended) ~~Division~~ The device according to Claim 21, ~~characterised in that it is~~ adapted to modify the partitioning of the signal so that ~~said~~ the at least one area of interest is not shared between two partitioning areas.

23. (Currently Amended) ~~Division~~ The device according to Claim 21 or 22, ~~characterised in that it is~~ adapted to modify the partitioning of the signal so that the partitioning areas are as small as possible in order to satisfy the predetermined criterion.

24. (Currently Amended) ~~Division~~ The device according to Claim 21 or 22, ~~characterised in that~~ which the means [[of]] for determining an initial partitioning are adapted to form a partitioning which includes blocks of samples of the signal, and ~~in that~~ the means [[of]] for modifying the partitioning are adapted to modify at least one parameter chosen from amongst a block height [[(H)]] and a block width [[(L)]].

25. (Currently Amended) ~~Division~~ The device according to Claim 21 or 22, ~~characterised in that~~ which the means ~~[[of]]~~ for modifying the partitioning are adapted to effect a translation of the partitioning with respect to the signal.

26. (Currently Amended) ~~Division~~ The device according to Claim 21 or 22, ~~characterised in that~~ which the means ~~[[of]]~~ for modifying the partitioning are adapted to select a modified partitioning which is in a predetermined set of partitionings.

 27. (Currently Amended) ~~Division~~ The device ~~[[ (10) ]]~~ according to Claim 21 or 22, ~~characterised in that~~ which the determination and modification means are incorporated in:

[[ - ]] a microprocessor ~~(100)~~<sub>;</sub>

[[ - ]] a read only memory ~~[[ (102) ]]~~ containing a program for processing the data~~[[, ]]~~<sub>;</sub> and

[[ - ]] a random access memory ~~[[ (103) ]]~~ containing registers adapted to record variables modified during the running of said program.

28. (Currently Amended) ~~Device (3)~~ A device for coding a digital signal representing physical quantities, ~~characterised in that it includes~~ including the division device according to any one of Claims 14, 15, 21, or 22.

29. (Currently Amended) ~~Digital~~ A digital signal processing apparatus, characterised in that it has including means adapted to implement the method according to any one of Claims 1, 2, 7, or 8.

30. (Currently Amended) ~~Digital~~ A digital signal processing apparatus, characterised in that it includes including the device according to any one of Claims 14, 15, 21, or 22.

31. (Currently Amended) ~~Storage~~ A storage medium storing a program for implementing a method according to any one of ~~claims~~ Claims 1, 2, 7, or 8.

32. (Currently Amended) ~~Storage~~ The storage medium according to claim 31, characterised in that said which the storage medium is detachably mountable on a device according to any one of ~~claims~~ Claims 14, 15, 21, or 22.

33. (Currently Amended) ~~Storage~~ The storage medium according to claim 32, characterised in that said which the storage medium is a floppy disk or a CD-ROM.